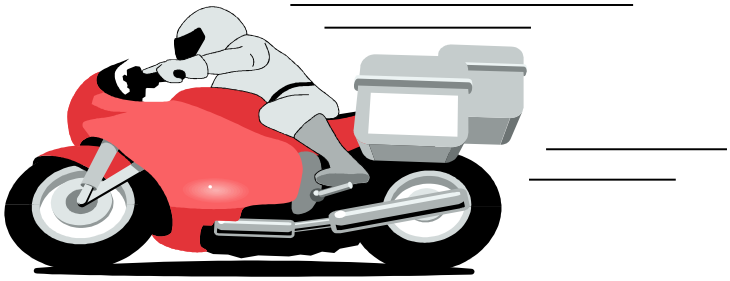
SAFETY ALERT

Motorcycle Accident Prevention

Survival Steps:



Typical Causal Factors

- **Speed – Too fast for conditions.**
- **Overconfidence in ability.**
- **Not Driving Defensively**
- **Motorist Awareness**
- **Drinking and Riding**

Protective Equipment.

Helmets are 29% effective in preventing fatal injuries! Riders must wear an helmet, goggles or face shield, sturdy footwear, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long tro full-fingered gloves designed for use on a motorcycle, and a brightly colored upper g during the day and a reflective upper garment at night (DODI 6055.4 & AR 385-55).

Crash Avoidance and Injury Mitigation.

Three types of motorcycle crashes account for over 90% of all crashes and virtually all serious crashes:

- Collision with Another Vehicle – usually a car and usually one changing direction
- Failure to Negotiate a Corner
- Head-On Collision

Six essential operator skills have been identified to avoid these types of crashes:

1. Emergency Braking – is an obvious survival skill. Poor emergency braking can cause a crash. Locking a wheel, especially the front wheel, can cause the bike to go out of control. Riders untrained in emergency braking tend to lock the front brake under hard braking and fall off. Most riders use only the back brake, which provides about 20% of the total stopping power. This is a BAD habit. Locking the rear brake removes attitude/stability control. Operators need to use both brakes to obtain maximum braking. In panic situations, pull your clutch lever to the grip, use the front brake aggressively and use controlled rear brake action.

2. Direction Perspective - On a motorcycle, where you look is where you go. To establish your your direction perspective, motorcyclist must use their eyes correctly. The way the rider uses his eyes also plays an important part in anticipating the actions of other vehicles and in the messages they send to other motorists. Target fixation is part of this. The rider who looks at roadside fixtures they are trying to avoid is sure to hit them! Focus on where you want to go.

Learn More - Take a Motorcycle Safety Foundation

– involves being focused and thinking ahead about what might happen